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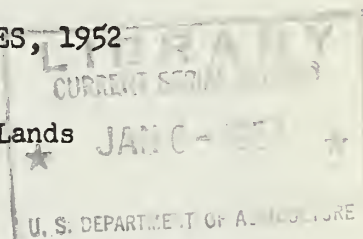
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United States Department of the Interior, Douglas McKay, Secretary
Fish and Wildlife Service, John L. Farley, Director

Washington 25, D. C.

Wildlife Leaflet 348
August, 1953

INVENTORY OF BIG-GAME ANIMALS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1952

Compiled by Paul Hickie, Biologist
Section of Wildlife Investigations on Public Lands
Branch of Wildlife Research



For some years it has been evident that this report would have maximum usefulness if it were in the hands of hunters, sports writers, and others before the opening of a new hunting season. Through simplification of the methods of collecting and presenting information, and especially through the excellent cooperation of the State game officials, this has been made possible.

Figures given here are estimates or compilations based on the best information available to the States, and they are used as reported. Particularly in population estimates, a high degree of accuracy is not to be expected, and the procedure sometimes results in figures that appear inconsistent or incorrect. As an example, in this report the kill of North Dakota deer appears high in relation to the inventory. Year-to-year trends may be affected by changes in technique that alter the base on which estimates are made. In spite of these limitations, the inventory is the only one available, and it serves many useful purposes. As better techniques are found, its accuracy will be improved.

In the present compilation, totals for some species show significant changes from previous years. White-tailed deer are down about 9 percent. Possibly better census methods, special seasons, and some cases of declining range productivity may explain the drop. On the contrary, black-tailed deer are up about 14 percent. Other species showing a slight to moderate increase are moose, elk, mountain goats, bighorns, pronghorns, and turkeys. Some of these changes may result from normal variations in censusing, but turkeys and pronghorns show increases extending over several States, and from this a general population build-up can be assumed. Pronghorn totals show a slight decline in California, Colorado, and Texas, where drought conditions have prevailed.

Following last year's practice, the wild turkey is included in this summary because of its importance in the game picture.

	ESTIMATED BIG-GAME TOTALS BY STATES	SPECIES	MOOSE		ELK		WHITE-TAILED DEER		BLACK BEAR	
			14,000		300,000		5,200,000		185,000	
			Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.
WESTERN STATES	100,000	Arizona	-	-	1,189 S	NFG	1,490 L	NFG	15 L	NFC
	1,200,000	California	-	-	NOS	1,000 A	-	-	4,960 Q	20,000
	475,000	Colorado	-	-	2/ 3,006 LS	51,307 AKP	-	-	774 LS	7,000
	275,000	Idaho	71 S	1,450 AK	8,792 LS	35,100 AK	6/ 24,552 AK	NFG	6,775	
	300	Kansas	-	-	NOS	6 T	NOS	125 E	-	-
	440,000	Montana	211 S	3,611	6,422 L	42,089 A	12,896 L	43,115	728 L	6,853
	33,000	Nebraska	-	-	NOS	66 CT	5 S	7,890	NOS	7
	125,000	Nevada	-	-	NOS	250 EP	-	-	-	-
	215,000	New Mexico	-	-	200 S	6,500	450 ES	7/ 19,000	300 E	3,500
	60,000	North Dakota	-	-	NOS	3/ 60	27,000	13,000 P	-	-
	24,000	Oklahoma	-	-	-	-	700 ELP	20,000 P	-	-
	690,000	Oregon	-	-	3,433 LQ	32,000 K	100 E	1,500	1,000	10,000
	125,000	South Dakota	-	-	400 LQS	4/ 1,610 CP	10,580	4/ 55,130	-	-
	710,000	Texas	-	-	NOS	400 E	32,000 Q	450,000	10 E	200
	470,000	Utah	NOS	10 E	1,323 S	5,000 AKP	-	-	-	300
	560,000	Washington	-	-	2,900 LQ	30,000 K	12,000 LQ	50,000 K	8,000 Q	40,000
	370,000	Wyoming	437 ES	2,684 AP	7,816 S	35,169 AP	3,546 S	10,733	409 ES	1,120
EASTERN STATES	90,000	Alabama	-	-	-	-	5,022 Q	40,000	NOS	150
	90,000	Arkansas	-	-	NOS	250 E	5,764 LS	72,000	-	90
	7,700	Connecticut	-	-	-	-	379 L	7,000 K	-	-
	1,300	Delaware	-	-	-	-	200 E	1,000	-	-
	112,000	Florida	-	-	-	-	9,000 QS	41,000 K	150 E	700
	60,000	Georgia	-	-	-	-	5,500	25,000	25 E	500
	6,000	Illinois	-	-	-	-	NOS	6,000	-	-
	5,000	Indiana	-	-	-	-	1,114 L	3,700 P	-	-
	11,500	Iowa	-	-	-	-	NOS	11,000	-	-
	7,500	Kentucky	-	-	-	-	3 B	6,500 P	-	20
	95,000	Louisiana	-	-	-	-	7,000	76,500	3 E	80
	325,000	Maine	NOS	3,000 AP	-	-	35,171 S	250,000	2,000 S	20,000
	31,000	Maryland	-	-	-	-	1,543 S	27,000	-	20
	25,000	Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	2,959 L	20,000	-	-
	800,000	Michigan	NOS	1/ 510	NOS	250 E	162,120	600,000 KP	1,000	7,500
	650,000	Minnesota	NOS	1,657 A	NOS	40 A	48,300 L	559,581 AK	900 E	9,900
	73,000	Mississippi	-	-	-	-	2,197 S	55,000	-	40
	115,000	Missouri	-	-	-	-	7,500 LS	100,000	NOS	7
	62,000	New Hampshire	NOS	50	5/ NOS	30	7,301 L	50,000 K	300 EP	1,200
	46,000	New Jersey	-	-	-	-	8/ 4,787 L	40,000	2 T	10
	435,000	New York	-	-	-	-	42,080 L	3/ 375,000 K	188 L	900
	195,000	North Carolina	-	-	-	-	15,000 Q	150,000 K	900 Q	10,000
	21,000	Ohio	-	-	-	-	274 LS	20,000 KP	NOS	18
	430,000	Pennsylvania	-	-	NOS	60 E	64,993 L	300,000	261 L	900
	450	Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	NOS	450 E	-	-
	70,000	South Carolina	-	-	-	-	7,500	45,000	25 E	200
	23,000	Tennessee	-	-	-	-	525 LS	15,000 K	14 S	260
	112,000	Vermont	NOS	10 E	-	-	6,554 K	100,000	200 E	1,500
	82,000	Virginia	-	-	NOS	225 E	10,867 S	60,000 K	327 S	1,000
	131,000	West Virginia	-	-	-	-	17,156	100,000 S	11/ 81 LQ	400
	550,000	Wisconsin	-	-	-	-	27,504 Q	10/ 500,000	710 L	2,500
Estimated minimum big-game populations before 1952 hunting seasons:			719	12,982	35,481	241,412	599,080	4,351,776	23,282	153,650
10,600,000			MOOSE		ELK		WHITE-TAILED DEER		BLACK BEAR	

FOOTNOTES: 1/ Includes 500 on Isle Royale National Park
2/ Bulls only
3/ 2 free ranging, 58 combined
4/ See South Dakota chart
5/ 4 illegally killed
6/ Included in figures for mule deer
7/ Includes 18,500 Sonora fan tail deer
8/ Includes 133 illegally killed
9/ Plus or minus 25,000
10/ Plus or minus 100,000
11/ About 32 illegally killed
12/ Includes white-tailed deer
13/ Includes 1,400 desert highhorn
14/ Includes 250 desert highhorn
15/ Plus or minus 1,000

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ESTIMATED BIG-GAME TOTALS BY STATES SPECIES		MOOSE 14,000		ELK 300,000		WHITE-TAILED DEER 5,200,000		BLACK BEAR 185,000		GRIZZLY BEAR 975		MULE DEER 2,800,000		BLACK-TAILED DEER 1,100,000		PRONGHORN ANTELOPE 340,000		PECCARY (JAVELINA) 115,000		BIGHORN SHEEP 17,500		MOUNTAIN GOAT 14,250		BISON 6,000		WILD TURKEY 390,000		TOTALS		STATES																																																																													
		Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.																																																																														
WESTERN STATES	100,000 Arizona	-	-	1,189 S	NFG	1,490 L	NFG	15 L	NFG	-	-	13,226 L	NFG	-	-	739 S	NFG	1,762 L	NFG	10	13/ NFG	-	-	246 S	783 LS	NFG	19,214	246	Arizona																																																																														
	1,200,000 California	-	-	NOS	1,000 A	-	-	4,960 O	20,000	-	-	23,361 L	500,000 K	27,422 L	586,000 K	NOS	3,500 A	-	-	NOS	13/ 1,650	-	-	-	NOS	500 E	55,743	1,112,650	California																																																																														
	475,000 Colorado	-	-	2/ 3,006 LS	51,307 AKP	-	-	774 LS	7,000	-	32 E	73,109 LS	292,000 AKP	-	-	1,922 LS	11,000 AKP	-	-	NOS	5,500	NOS	35 E	-	138 LS	12,200 P	78,949	379,074	Colorado																																																																														
	275,000 Idaho	71 S	1,450 AK	8,792 LS	35,100 AK	6/	24,552 AK	NFG	6,775	NOS	69	12/ 30,454 LS	129,000 AK	-	-	1,520 S	13,400 AK	-	-	13	2,500	25 S	3,570 A	2	-	-	40,875	216,418	Idaho																																																																														
	300 Kansas	-	-	NOS	6 T	NOS	125 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NOS	10 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	150 T	-	-	-	291	Kansas																																																																														
	440,000 Montana	211 S	3,611	6,422 L	42,089 A	12,896 L	43,115	728 L	6,853	10 E	758 E	40,950 L	176,923	-	-	18,096 L	59,160 A	-	-	NOS	1,743	50 E	4,544	1,705 P	-	-	79,363	340,501	Montana																																																																														
	33,000 Nebraska	-	-	NOS	66 CT	5 S	7,890	NOS	7 CT	-	-	1,921 S	18,415	-	-	NOS	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	302 CT	-	-	1,926	29,830	Nebraska																																																																														
	125,000 Nevada	-	-	NOS	250 EP	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,385	90,000 AP	-	-	NOS	4,013 A	-	-	15 S	3,500 P	-	-	-	-	-	23,400	97,763	Nevada																																																																														
	215,000 New Mexico	-	-	200 S	6,500	450 ES	7/ 19,000	300 E	3,500	-	-	11,000 S	110,000	-	-	1,080 S	24,000 A	NOS	1,000	NOS	14/ 300	-	-	150 E	2,000 OS	25,000	15,030	189,450	New Mexico																																																																														
	60,000 North Dakota	-	-	NOS	3/ 60	27,000	13,000 P	-	-	-	-	5,200	5,500	-	-	986 L	2,350 P	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	NOS	120 T	33,186	21,064	North Dakota																																																																														
	24,000 Oklahoma	-	-	-	-	700 ELP	20,000 P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NOS	25 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NOS	1,500	700	21,525	Oklahoma																																																																														
	690,000 Oregon	-	-	3,433 LO	32,000 K	100 E	1,500	1,000	10,000	-	-	52,896 LQ	325,000 K	25,164 LQ	200,000 K	448 LO	10,000 A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83,041	578,500	Oregon																																																																														
	125,000 South Dakota	-	-	400 LOS	1,610 CP	10,580	55,130	-	-	-	-	4,550 L	26,700 K	-	-	7,880 L	10,195 T	-	-	NOS	25 T	NOS	300 CP	1,850 T	NOS	850 E	23,410	96,660	South Dakota																																																																														
	710,000 Texas	-	-	NOS	400 E	32,000 Q	450,000	10 E	200 E	-	-	200 EO	5,000	-	-	NOS	8,000 AP	5,000	100,000	NOS	25 P	-	-	-	3,500 Q	75,000	40,710	638,625	Texas																																																																														
	470,000 Utah	NOS	10 E	1,323 S	5,000 AKP	-	-	-	300 E	-	-	90,161 LQS	350,000 KP	-	-	NOS	1,700 AP	-	-	-	-	-	-	40 EP	NOS	16 T	91,484	357,066	Utah																																																																														
	560,000 Washington	-	-	2,900 LO	30,000 K	12,000 LQ	50,000 K	8,000 Q	40,000	-	-	13,000 LO	120,000 K	34,000 LQ	170,000 K	NOS	150 E	-	-	-	-	70 S	5,000	-	-	-	69,970	415,150	Washington																																																																														
	370,000 Wyoming	437 ES	2,684 AP	7,816 S	35,169 AP	3,546 S	10,733	409 ES	1,120	6 ES	49 E	36,887 S	105,707	-	-	41,020 S	97,483 AP	-	-	-	-	58 ES	1,749	-	-	1,355 AT	NOS	865 E	90,179	256,914	Wyoming																																																																												
EASTERN STATES	90,000 Alabama	-	-	-	-	5,022 O	40,000	NOS	150 E	<div>CARIBOU</div> <p>Idaho reports 35 mountain caribou. The woodland caribou is no longer reported from the United States but the species is being perpetuated in Canada.</p>																5,364 O	37,500	10,386	77,650	Alabama																																																																													
	90,000 Arkansas	-	-	NOS	250 E	5,764 LS	72,000	-	90 E																	363 LS	10,000	6,127	82,340	Arkansas																																																																													
	7,700 Connecticut	-	-	-	-	379 L	7,000 K	-	-	<div>EXOTIC SPECIES OF BIG-GAME</div> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">EUROPEAN WILD BOAR</th><th colspan="2">FALLOW DEER</th><th>RED DEER</th><th>BARBARY SHEEP</th></tr><tr><th>States</th><th>Kill</th><th>Inv.</th><th>Kill</th><th>Inv.</th><th>Inv.</th><th>Inv.</th></tr><tr><td>California</td><td>NFG</td><td>850 E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Kentucky</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1 B</td><td>150 EP</td><td>100 EP</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Nebraska</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>NOS</td><td>100 E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>New Hampshire</td><td>10 E</td><td>20 E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>New Mexico</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>North Carolina</td><td>24 O</td><td>300 E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Tennessee</td><td>26 S</td><td>600 EK</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Texas</td><td>NOS</td><td>200 E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td>60</td><td>1,970</td><td>1</td><td>250</td><td>100</td><td>150</td></tr></table>																	EUROPEAN WILD BOAR		FALLOW DEER		RED DEER	BARBARY SHEEP	States	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Inv.	Inv.	California	NFG	850 E	-	-	-	-	Kentucky	-	-	1 B	150 EP	100 EP	-	Nebraska	-	-	NOS	100 E	-	-	New Hampshire	10 E	20 E	-	-	-	-	New Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	150	North Carolina	24 O	300 E	-	-	-	-	Tennessee	26 S	600 EK	-	-	-	-	Texas	NOS	200 E	-	-	-	-	Totals	60	1,970	1	250	100	150	-	-	379	7,000	Connecticut
		EUROPEAN WILD BOAR		FALLOW DEER		RED DEER	BARBARY SHEEP																																																																																																				
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	Totals	60	1,970	1	250	100	150																																																																																																				
	1,300 Delaware	-	-	-	-	200 E	1,000	-	-	200	1,000	Delaware																																																																																															
	112,000 Florida	-	-	-	-	9,000 OS	41,000 K	150 E	700 E	18,000 OS	38,000 K	27,150	79,700	Florida																																																																																													
	60,000 Georgia	-	-	-	-	5,500	25,000	25 E	500 E	3,000	22,500	8,525	48,000	Georgia																																																																																													
6,000 Illinois	-	-	-	-	NOS	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	Illinois																																																																																														
5,000 Indiana	-	-	-	-	1,114 L	3,700 P	-	-	-	-	1,114	3,700	Indiana																																																																																														
11,500 Iowa	-	-	-	-	NOS	11,000	-	-	-	-	-	11,000	Iowa																																																																																														
7,500 Kentucky	-	-	-	-	3 B	6,500 P	-	20 E	NOS	750 EP	3	7,270	Kentucky																																																																																														
95,000 Louisiana	-	-	-	-	7,000	76,500	3 E	80 E	NOS	5,200	7,003	81,780	Louisiana																																																																																														
325,000 Maine	NOS	3,000 AP	-	-	35,171 S	250,000	2,000 S	20,000	-	-	37,171	273,000	Maine																																																																																														
31,000 Maryland	-	-	-	-	1,543 S	27,000	-	20 E	300 E	1,000	1,843	28,020	Maryland																																																																																														
25,000 Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	2,959 L	20,000	-	-	-	-	2,959	20,000	Massachusetts																																																																																														
800,000 Michigan	NOS	1/ 510	NOS	250 E	162,120	600,000 KP	1,000	7,500 KP	-	-	163,120	608,260	Michigan																																																																																														
650,000 Minnesota	NOS	1,657 A	NOS	40 A	48,300 L	559,581 AK	900 E	9,900 AK	-	-	49,200	571,178	Minnesota																																																																																														
73,000 Mississippi	-	-	-	-	2,197 S	55,000	-	40 E	600 E	12,500	2,797	67,540	Mississippi																																																																																														
115,000 Missouri	-	-	-	-	7,500 LS	100,000	NOS	7 E	NOS	2,379 T	7,500	102,386	Missouri																																																																																														
62,000 New Hampshire	NOS	50	5/ NOS	30	7,301 L	50,000 K	300 EP	1,200	-	-	7,601	51,280	New Hampshire																																																																																														
46,000 New Jersey	-	-	-	-	4,787 L	40,000	2 T	10 E	-	-	4,789	40,010	New Jersey																																																																																														
435,000 New York	-	-	-	-	42,080 L	375,000 K	188 L	900 K	-	-	42,268	375,900	New York																																																																																														
195,000 North Carolina	-	-	-	-	15,000 O	150,000 K	900 O	10,000 K	1,000 Q	10,000 K	16,900	170,000	North Carolina																																																																																														
21,000 Ohio	-	-	-	-	274 LS	20,000 KP	NOS	18 E	-	-	274	20,018	Ohio																																																																																														
430,000 Pennsylvania	-	-	NOS	60 E	64,993 L	300,000	261 L	900 E	9,227	35,000	74,481	335,960	Pennsylvania																																																																																														
450 Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	NOS	450 E	-	-	-	-	-	450	Rhode Island																																																																																														
70,000 South Carolina	-	-	-	-	7,500	45,000	25 E	200 E	1,000	12,000	8,525	57,200	South Carolina																																																																																														
23,000 Tennessee	-	-	-	-	525 LS	15,000 K	14 S	260 EK	48 LS	6,000 K	587	21,260	Tennessee																																																																																														
112,000 Vermont	NOS	10 E	-	-	6,554 K	100,000	200 E	1,500	-	-	6,754	101,510	Vermont																																																																																														
82,000 Virginia	-	-	NOS	225 E	10,867 S	60,000 K	327 S	1,000 K	1,608 S	5,000 K	12,802	66,225	Virginia																																																																																														
131,000 West Virginia	-	-	-	-	17,156	100,000 S	11/ 81 LQ	400 E	436 L	15/ 8,000	17,673	108,400	West Virginia																																																																																														
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Estimated minimum big-game populations before 1952 hunting seasons: 10,600,000		719	12,982	35,481	241,412	599,080	4,351,776	23,282	153,650	16	908	420,300	2,254,245	86,586	956,000	73,691	248,136	6,762	101,000	96	16,992	145	13,449	5,834	47,367	321,880	1,293,525	8,678,264	Sub-Totals																																																																														
		Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Kill	Inv.	Total																																																																													
		MOOSE		ELK		WHITE-TAILED DEER		BLACK BEAR		GRIZZLY BEAR		MULE DEER		BLACK-TAILED DEER		PRONGHORN ANTELOPE		PECCARY (JAVELINA)		BIGHORN SHEEP		MOUNTAIN GOAT		BISON		WILD TURKEY																																																																																	

